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Personnel Security

Your article "An Epidemic of Spies" (NATIONAL AFFAIRS, Dec. 9) might convey the wrong impression of my views on measures needed to strengthen personnel security. I do not advocate that the government monitor on an ongoing basis the private lives of government employees, including their bank accounts and tax records. My point is that, since personal gain and not ideology seems to be the principal motive for espionage by Americans these days, persons in sensitive positions should be asked to make more of their financial records available for initial investigations and for periodic reinvestigations for security clearances. This could make it more difficult for those committing espionage to hide unusual financial transactions.

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